

MEDICAL NOTES.

VACCINATION AND TETANUS.

Much discussion in medical circles, and many alarming rumors in the ordinary press have been caused by the recent series of eight cases of tetanus occurring during the course of vaccination in Camden, N.J., and in Philadelphia. Here in Canada a like case is reported from Ottawa (newspaper report). Naturally it may be taken for granted that these cases will be extensively quoted by anti-vaccinationists as an additional reason against the use of this prophylactic against the small-pox. It may be well then to analyze these cases, not only to arrive at the facts, but to meet objections that may be offered to the operation. In the Camden and Philadelphia cases none developed earlier than the 20th day after vaccination and some as late as the fifth week. The period of incubation of tetanus is quite variable, being usually two to ten days, seldom more than twelve to fifteen days, and when it develops after this time the cases are usually more chronic in their course with a greater tendency to recover. Dr. Samuel D. Gross, of Philadelphia, remarks, "Persons are most likely to recover from acute tetanus when the attack occurs subsequent to the ninth day after the injury." Many other authorities might be quoted in the same strain so there is no need to further emphasize this point. However, *all* of these cases were acute in character and ended fatally in from two to six days so that if tetanus were inoculated with the vaccine virus we have here a very wide departure from the usual clinical features following such a prolonged incubation. There was no such chronicity nor tendency to recover as usually seen in cases of such prolonged incubation.

Again Dr. Wilson, of Philadelphia (American Medicine, Vol. II, page 903), states that in all the cases anti-tetanic serum was employed so that the cases got the full advantage of the